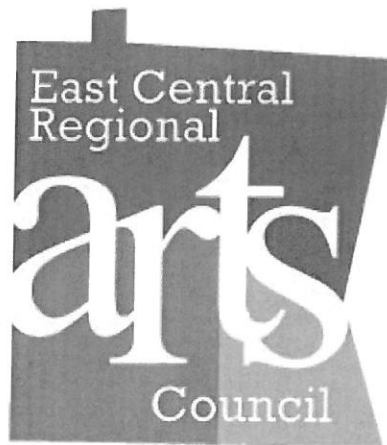


# East Central Regional Arts Council Region 7E



## Final Report 2016

Kelli Maag, Board Chair  
Mary Minnick-Daniels, Executive Director

September 30, 2016

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to legislative appropriations from the general fund and the arts and cultural heritage fund.

**EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
(REGION 7E)**

**FINAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2016**

**Submitted by:**

**East Central Regional Arts Council  
PO Box 294  
112 Main Avenue South  
Braham, MN 55006**

## ECRAC FINAL REPORT FY 2016 – REGION 7E

Fiscal year (FY) 2016, was the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the East Central Arts Council (ECAC) which was an advisory committee to the East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC). In FY 2012 ECAC, now known as the East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC), became an independent 501(c)3 non-profit. In FY 2016 ECRAC completed its 6<sup>th</sup> year as an independent organization. ECRAC successfully undertook many accomplishments this year: they operated the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Region 7E Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy Fund in Region 7E; they continued the general operating support grant for arts organizations and then decided it wasn't the best fit and put a hold on the program; they supported the annual IMAGE Art Show at the office space and adjacent warehouse in rural Braham and also hosted three other art shows; all in addition to providing all the previously supported RAC grant programs and services.

### ECRAC Mission, Vision, and Values

In FY 2015 the ECRAC board worked with a consultant to update the mission, vision, and value statements of the organization. It was felt that they are now more closely aligned with those established for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

#### Mission:

To support the arts and bring the life enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents.

#### Vision:

All Region 7E residents have the opportunity to participate, appreciate, create, and invest in the arts.

#### Values:

##### **Arts in Action**

We are motivated by our love of the arts, to serve artists and organizations with resources, education, and commitment. We welcome all artists and organizations as partners in our common goal of developing a vibrant arts community.

##### **Integrity**

We recognize all art forms and act with consistency, support, and respect in all of our relationships and in our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

##### **Artistic Merit**

We uphold a high standard of artistic quality that promotes growth and development of creative knowledge, skills, and understanding.

##### **Legacy**

We understand and appreciate that the arts are an essential part of our heritage and daily lives. We uphold the creative spirit from the past, in the present, and into the future.

ECRAC accomplishes its mission through programs and special initiatives for artists and arts organizations. Goals of the ECRAC in FY 2016 included improving the arts experiences in the region, increasing awareness of the arts, making the arts available to those who desire exposure to the arts, and promoting greater communication among the community of artists and art organizations.

ECRAC's mission, vision and values are at the heart of the programs and grantees funded. ECRAC's grantee partners are at the forefront of the work to enhance the arts environment in Region 7E. It is the artist's and arts organization's daily work and commitment that expands arts opportunities, increases the quality of life, and enhances the community/economic development in the region.

Carrying out the responsibilities of a regional arts council, the ECRAC was involved in work activities designed to meet these goals. The East Central Regional Arts Council accomplished its mission through the implementation of programs and services identified in the approved biennial plan.

## **ECRAC Highlights and Activities**

The FY 2016 work program of the Regional Arts Council included the following:

- implementation of the East Central Regional Arts Council arts and cultural heritage fund grants for organizations and individuals;
- continuing the General Operating Support Grant for arts organizations and then realizing it wasn't the best fit for the regional arts organizations;
- Art in Our Schools grants;
- Small/Art Project Grants,
- K-12 Scholarships for Kids;
- IMAGE - the annual regional art show hosted in the fall of 2016 by ECRAC in Braham; the Open Gallery Show which opened on Braham Pie Day and was open for 2 months; a retrospective show that was open during the months of December and January; and the Grantee Art Show which opened in April;
- McKnight/ECRAC Individual Artist and Fellowship Grant Programs;
- and grant and final report writing assistance was provided by hosting various workshops, providing technical assistance and arts resource information. ECRAC also started the implementation of an online grant system in FY 2016.
- ECRAC also supported an artist resource fair at the end of the IMAGE Art Show. 20 arts organizations from Region 7E met with artists to talk about their organizations and the services they have to offer. This was very successful and about 100 artists attended the fair.
- In addition, the Creative Minnesota, economic impact of the arts study, was undertaken in Mille Lacs and Chisago Counties and in Pine City. ECRAC encouraged this and participated in the information sessions.

In FY 2016, ECRAC sponsored a series of art grant information sessions. Many potential applicants were in attendance at these sessions where they learned more about ECRAC arts funding sources and services. ECRAC staff worked extensively with grant applicants during this year and also provided final report writing training to grantees so they would more clearly understand their responsibilities as grant recipients. ECRAC continued to host a grant writing workshop for IMAGE Art Show artists. This resulted in a significant increase in grant proposals from artists.

The Arts Council also provided other important services for the region. The website [www.ecrac.org](http://www.ecrac.org) is one of these. This site continues to provide the region with information about the Arts Council's programs, and resources available to the arts community. The website also highlights individual artists and arts organizations in the region. ECRAC contracted with Moriarty Web Designs to design this resource and occasionally still uses their consulting services on the site.

ECRAC staff continued the *Essential Arts* newsletter. ECRAC has an newsletter because of the distinct advantages over a printed newsletter: timeliness and cost. There are 979 active addresses on the newsletter mailing list and ECRAC has an impressive email open rate of 30%.

ECRAC also uses social media in addition to traditional media sources. In FY 2010, ECRAC initiated Twitter and Facebook pages. These were continued in FY 2016 to highlight the ECRAC services and to notify constituents about various opportunities. It is felt that social media is an important way to get the word out about ECRAC. In FY 2016 it was again proven that by using Facebook advertisements ECRAC could geographically target Region 7E residents that have key interests in various art mediums. This has been a very successful way to get the word out about ECRAC programs and services. ECRAC expects to continue these ads because it expands outreach directly to those interested in the arts in Region 7E.

Individual Artist Grants & Artist Fellowships - The McKnight/ECRAC Individual Artist grants are designed for artists in the region wanting to expand their artistry with a specific arts project. The Fellowship Program is designed to recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding professional artists. Funding for these programs is supported by The McKnight Foundation..

Arts and Cultural Heritage Legacy Fund - The arts and cultural heritage fund, popularly known as the Legacy Fund, started in FY 2010. It is intended to create a strong arts legacy in Minnesota. It will exist for a period of twenty-five years. The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) in FY 2016, as one of Minnesota's designated Regional Arts Councils, was entrusted with stewardship of the 7<sup>th</sup> year of funding through the State of Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage (ACHF) Legacy Fund in Region 7E. Proceeds from the fund may be spent on arts and arts access, arts education and arts and cultural heritage.

The awarding of the FY 2016 ECRAC ACHF grants, the seventh year of the Region 7E arts and cultural heritage fund grants, continued to be successful. Non-profit organizations, community groups, units of government, public schools and individual artists were all eligible to apply. Only the top ranked projects were funded.

ECRAC board members continue to feel it is very important to be able to offer support for worthwhile art projects that were found to be of a very high artistic caliber and which also supported the regional economy and community development.

This East Central Regional Arts Council arts and cultural heritage programming was made possible by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Art in Our Schools Grants - Schools may apply to the East Central Regional Arts Council to help fund special art projects related to the curriculum. The funds can support artist residencies, art field trips, or any special school art focused project.

Small/Art Project Grants – This program was initiated in FY 2014 and combined two previous funding programs in order to streamline the granting processes. Grants were awarded for local or regional arts and cultural projects sponsored/coordinated by organizations, schools, units of government, or non-profits. Funds were available for a variety of arts projects that developed or enhanced local arts organizations, artists, or art audiences. Grant proposals from \$500 to \$5,000 were considered. The grants were awarded with a required one-to-one financial match.

## **Evaluation/Monitoring of Grants**

The East Central Regional Arts Council follows a multi-step process regarding competitive grant reviews and grant evaluations. As requested, ECRAC staff initially works with applicants on their draft grant applications especially new applicants, those grant applications needing revisions, and those that need further direction on the grant guidelines. Applications are then submitted to the Arts Council and are reviewed individually during the grant rounds at either a grant panel meeting or at the Regional Arts Council board meeting. This is a competitive grant process. Applications are ranked/prioritized according to grant review criteria published in the grant program information. Funding is allocated based on the ranking and program information. All grants have final approval by the East Central Regional Arts Council board of directors.

ECRAC grantees are required to attend a final report training session once per fiscal year. This was a new requirement in FY 2014 and the education has cleared up some final reporting requirement confusion. Organization grantees submit a final report within 60 days of the completed project and individual artists within 30 days. The ECRAC Grant Program Officer and Executive Director then conduct substantive and financial reviews of the final reports. Any issues found are reported to grantee and to the full ECRAC board. The ECRAC Board of Directors reviews summaries of all grantee final reports when submitted and then again when reviewing a new application from the group as part of the organizational ability criteria. ECRAC reserves the right to audit any grant project for 3 years after the ending date of the grant. ECRAC audited 1 grantee in FY 2016 based on final report discrepancies.

The East Central Regional Arts Council organizational audit for FY 2016 is scheduled October. ECRAC's grant file documentation will be included in this audit. Because of the date

of the audit ECRAC may be requesting an extension for submission from the end of December 2016 to the end of January 2017.

## **East Central Regional Arts Council Transition Final**

In FY 2010 the East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) and the ECAC, as part an extensive planning process and consultant study with attorney Tom Triplett, had decided that in order to better serve its mission the Regional Arts Council would no longer be a program of the ECRDC. In FY 2011 the new East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC), with existing ECAC advisory committee members, established itself as a non-profit organization, held separate monthly meetings, and became independent of the ECRDC on July 1, 2011 – FY 2012. During FY 2016, this transition was complete and all ECAC/ECRDC grantees were allowed to apply for grants in FY 2016 and later. Prior to this if the ECAC/ECRDC grantees had either an incomplete or unsubmitted final report form they were automatically ineligible for ECRAC grant funds.

## **FY 2016 RESULTS OF WORK PROGRAM**

**GOAL I - Provide Grant Programs that allow for the production or sponsorship of art by organizations or public agencies such as a local units of government, schools, public libraries, 501(c)3 non-profits, and artists.**

Work Elements:

- 1) Provided the ECRAC arts & cultural heritage fund grant programs. See Goal V for additional details.
- 2) Continued new general operating support grant with ECRAC arts & cultural heritage funds and then reevaluated the program and decided to discontinue it at this time.
- 3) Conducted grant reviews for the Small/Art Project Grant program with the general fund allocation.
- 4) Provided the Art In Our Schools program, which provides funding for arts project within educational facilities.
- 5) Held grant rounds for applications from individual artists for project grants. (McKnight Funding)
- 6) Conducted a fellowship program to fund artistic fellowships for professional artists on an annual basis. (McKnight Funding)
- 7) Conducted a scholarship program to fund special art projects for children in grades K-12.
- 8) Utilized the Minnesota State Arts Board Information System Database to track grant applicants and to report activity and track outcomes.
- 9) Kept records of all grant activities and outcomes through grant file documentation.
- 10) Evaluated all grant programs in order to apply needed changes and due to this decided to implement an online grant application system.

**GOAL II - Provide technical assistance opportunities for artists and arts organizations.**

Work Elements:

- 1) Provided the IMAGE Art Show, the annual regional art exhibition and held an artist resource fair for regional artists, and three other Art Shows. (McKnight & ACHF Funding)
- 2) Worked toward determining the feasibility of developing a regional performing art exhibit – and decided it was not a good fit at this time.
- 3) Continued the ECRAC Open Gallery process in order to highlight the work of regional artists.
- 4) Worked toward evaluating the need for establishing an arts organization peer group – this is still under evaluation.
- 5) Distributed arts resource information as needed and as requested.
- 6) Provided an arts information area in the ECRAC offices.
- 7) Provided 17 workshops for artists and arts organizations and continued the Artist Resource Fair to help artists and arts organizations connect in support of each other.



**GOAL III - Provide staffing for technical support and other information services to artists and art organizations in the Region.**

Work Elements:

- 1) Provided technical assistance to applicants in all funding program areas.
- 2) Continued to develop working relationships with minority artists within the region.
- 3) Continued the working relationship with the VSA Minnesota to assist the Council in serving disabled artists and patrons in the region. ECRAC disseminated this information.
- 4) Facilitated skill-building workshops.
- 5) Continued to arrange the use of the ECRAC display standards and pedestals for Region 7E artists and art organizations.
- 6) Continued to work on the constituent database for delivery of arts information and public service announcements.
- 7) Promoted ECRAC and continued to expand outreach to the arts community, including, but not limited to: the newsletter *Essential Arts*, maintaining and updating the ECRAC website, and continued providing social networking services for ECRAC.
- 8) Participated in arts leadership activities including participating in meetings and activities of the Regional Arts Council Forum and the Minnesota State Arts Board.
- 9) Completed all necessary reports to the Minnesota State Arts Board and The McKnight Foundation.
- 10) Continued outcome evaluation of programs via grantee assessments from final reports.
- 11) Researched and disseminated various foundation and governmental grant opportunities for the purpose of expanding arts opportunities in the region.

**GOAL IV- Oversee all aspects of East Central Regional Arts Council administration.**

Work Elements:

- 1) Maintained ECRAC office facilities.
- 2) Provided staffing and administration for the ECRAC.
- 3) Assessed and fulfilled equipment needs for ECRAC.
- 4) Maintained 501(c)3 non-profit status.
- 5) Provided for an annual audit of the ECRAC.
- 6) Provided ongoing board development at the annual retreat.
- 7) Contracted for services, as needed.
- 8) Maintained, monitored, and enhanced the permanent ECRAC art collection including loans of the works, as requested.
- 9) Kept updated on current issues and opportunities affecting the arts with the Region and State.

## **GOAL V- Implement the ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.**

### Work Elements:

- 1) Maintained the ECRAC arts and cultural heritage fund grant programs for organizations and individuals.
- 2) Implemented the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the ECRAC arts and cultural heritage fund operating support grant program for Region 7E arts organizations and decided to discontinue the program at this time.
- 3) Distribution of the arts and cultural heritage fund in Region 7E was granted exclusively with these programs and services in Region 7E. Previous ECRAC grant programming and services continue to be funded out of the State general fund or McKnight Foundation allocations.
- 4) Revised the ECRAC grant proposal application process for the distribution of arts and cultural heritage funds in Region 7E as needed. Grant applicants identify which of the fund area or areas their grant proposal will target. These grant application forms and guidelines are now available online.
- 5) Allocated funding to the three key areas of the arts and cultural heritage fund in the appropriate percentages.
- 6) Established grant review panels to be used for arts and cultural heritage fund grants, when needed. Staff trains the grant review panels and their recommendations will be made to the ECRAC board of directors for final approval.
- 7) Continued marketing for the arts and cultural heritage fund in Region 7E included public service announcements, paid ads, use of the ECRAC newsletter, and social networking. Additionally, ECRAC started promoted artists and arts activities during the regional radio station KBEK.
- 8) Required outcome evaluation for all grantees and promoted the use of grant funds for this purpose. ECRAC utilized consultants to assist grantees with the outcome evaluation requirement.
- 9) Completed the online only grant application system via Foundant Technologies and worked with them to ensure a seamless transition for grant applicants.
- 10) Worked with groups such as the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota, Forecast Public Art, and Springboard for the Arts, and VSA MN, to provide additional arts related services and resources in Region 7E as needed.

# FY 2016 ACHF GOALS and OUTCOMES

## Region 7E: East Central Arts Council Outcome Evaluation Framework

Goal	Activities/Inputs What work did we do?	Measurement Tool(s) How do we know?	Indicators What did the results look like?	Hypothesized Long-term Outcomes
<p>Provided effective and efficient grant programs for the production or sponsorship of art for individuals, organizations, and schools, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Fund Appropriations</li> <li>• McKnight funds</li> <li>• Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announced guidelines for all grant categories in advance</li> <li>• Maintained an informative website</li> <li>• Assisted potential applicants to develop strong applications through workshops and one-on-one coaching</li> <li>• Conducted grant rounds for arts organizations, Art in our Schools, individual artist projects and fellowships.</li> <li>• Provided smaller grants to cover opportunities under \$5,000</li> <li>• Sponsored annual K-12 scholarship program</li> <li>• Tracked all inquiries, applications, and grants accurately.</li> <li>• Responded to requests for information in a timely manner</li> <li>• Developed/maintained contacts with minority populations, such as the Mille Lacs Band</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant final reports</li> <li>• Inquiries and applications to at least 75% of grant categories.</li> <li>• Results of grantee questionnaire.</li> <li>• # of new individuals and organizations participating in various grant programs increases.</li> <li>• Geographic/demographic analysis of grant applicants.</li> <li>• Board/Panel/Staff assessments of change in application pool over time.</li> <li>• Board/Panelist input of program administration.</li> <li>• Board evaluation of staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of outcome evaluation of ACHF funded projects increased for repeat applicants.</li> <li>• Interest and participation in grant programs remained and increased in some of them this year.</li> <li>• A substantial majority of applicants &amp; grantees assessed grant programs as effectively administered.</li> <li>• Grant program participation was geographically and demographically representative.</li> <li>• Quality of grant proposals remained high especially for repeat applicants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The arts ecosystem of Region 7E is strengthened, so that citizens have access to a range of high quality arts opportunities covering multiple arts disciplines.</li> <li>• Resident participation in the arts is stable or increases.</li> <li>• Residents see the arts as an essential contributor to community quality of life</li> </ul>
<p>Assured adequate infrastructure and staff for the effective functioning of East Central Arts Council as an independent 501(c)3 organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff needs were researched, recommendations made to the board, and a necessary new hire was made, a gallery coordinator.</li> <li>• With board, decided if office space is adequate.</li> <li>• Provided technology solutions (phone, computers, etc. for office.)</li> <li>• Publicized availability of ECRAC space</li> <li>• Continued branding organization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board self-evaluations</li> <li>• Staff assessments</li> <li>• Public comments</li> <li>• Number of visits by individuals and organizational reps.</li> <li>• Interviews with/informal input from non-arts community leaders</li> <li>• Attendance at gallery openings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing is adequate</li> <li>• Suitable, well-equipped office space was leased with the addition of new office and warehouse (art exhibit) space in FY 2016.</li> <li>• Arts and community stakeholders were aware of the space in Braham and the # of visitors increased.</li> <li>• An effective governance structure and policies is in place.</li> <li>• Promotional materials were developed and disseminated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECRAC's public presence is enhanced.</li> <li>• Recognition of ECRAC as the Regional Arts Council rather than ECAC/ECRDC.</li> </ul>

Goal	Activities/Inputs What work did we do?	Measurement Tool(s) How do we know?	Indicators What did the results look like?	Hypothesized Long-term Outcomes
Assisted artists and arts organizations to achieve their goals through information, publicity, and sponsorships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECRAC website was maintained and updated.</li> <li>• Newsletter was published.</li> <li>• Updated &amp; expanded database.</li> <li>• E-mailed stakeholders with new opportunities or information between newsletters.</li> <li>• Continued sponsorships of the Image art exhibit.</li> <li>• An up-to-date grant and grant funded event calendar is maintained.</li> <li>• Other opportunities were shared as they arose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of website hits tracked</li> <li>• # of newsletters published</li> <li>• # of individuals and organizations on the database, increased over the year.</li> <li>• # of attendees at exhibits were tracked</li> <li>• Comments provided in exhibit guest books were reviewed</li> <li>• Results of grantee survey analyzed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely information was provided to ECRAC arts stakeholders.</li> <li>• Quality of exhibit entries continued to be high.</li> <li>• A substantial majority of artists &amp; arts organizations were satisfied with publicity services provided by ECRAC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artists and arts organizations are able to sustain and/or expand their work.</li> </ul>

## FY 2016 GRANT LISTING BY GRANT PROGRAM

The ECRAC list of grants by program was provided in the Annual Report to MSAB submitted on July 30, 2016. If additional details are needed please contact ECRAC at [info@ecrac.org](mailto:info@ecrac.org) Alternatively, the list of grantees can be found online by clicking here: [ECRAC Grants Funded 2016](#).

# EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL FY 2016

## REGIONAL BLOCK GRANT SUMMARY - UNAUDITED

### JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016

	Arts & Arts & Cult		McKnight	Other		
	General Fund	Arts & Cult				
	2016 State	2016 State	Foundation	Funds		
	2016 State	2016 State	2016 State	2016 Total		
<b>REVENUE</b>						
1	State of Minnesota	\$102,404	\$291,527	\$58,540	\$19,513	\$471,984
2	McKnight Foundation					\$46,000
3	Other Income					\$1,672
	Grant Refunds	\$5,291				\$500
	Previous FY Carryover		\$116,823	\$20,117		\$136,940
4	Interest	\$224	\$683	\$120	\$51	\$1,188
5	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$107,919</b>	<b>\$409,033</b>	<b>\$58,660</b>	<b>\$39,681</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>
						<b>\$1,782</b>
						<b>\$663,575</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Programs and Services</b>						
6	Grant Programs and Services					
	Art In Our Schools	\$6,770				\$6,770
	Small/Art Project Grants	\$26,167	\$15,000			\$41,167
	ECRAC ACHF Project Grants		\$130,424	\$45,000	\$37,000	\$212,424
	ECRAC-McKnight Artist Grants & Fellowships					\$30,772
	ECRAC K-12 Art Scholarships	\$1,468				\$1,468
7	Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	\$42,731	\$44,217	\$7,519	\$14,841	\$109,308
8	<b>Subtotal Grant Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$77,136</b>	<b>\$189,641</b>	<b>\$52,519</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>\$45,613</b>
						<b>\$0</b>
						<b>\$401,909</b>
9	Non-grant Programs and Services					
	Art Exhibitions and Showcases	\$61,394				\$61,394
	Arts promotion, website, internet	\$10	\$4,013	\$525	\$264	\$1,852
						\$63,246
						\$4,812
##	Non-grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	\$13,470	\$16,215	\$2,485	\$2,091	\$34,261
##	<b>Subtotal Non-grant Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$13,480</b>	<b>\$81,622</b>	<b>\$3,009</b>	<b>\$264</b>	<b>\$3,943</b>
						<b>\$0</b>
##	<b>Total Programs and Services</b>	<b>\$90,616</b>	<b>\$271,263</b>	<b>\$55,529</b>	<b>\$37,264</b>	<b>\$49,556</b>
						<b>\$0</b>
						<b>\$504,228</b>
##	Fundraising					\$259
##	General administration	\$17,303	\$13,154	\$1,932		\$1,090
						\$846
##	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$107,919</b>	<b>\$284,417</b>	<b>\$57,461</b>	<b>\$37,264</b>	<b>\$50,906</b>
						<b>\$846</b>
						<b>\$538,813</b>
	Carryover to FY 2017		\$124,616	\$1,199	\$2,417	-\$4,406
						\$935

# East Central Regional Arts Council

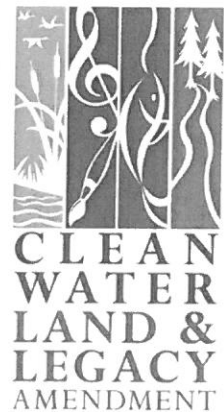
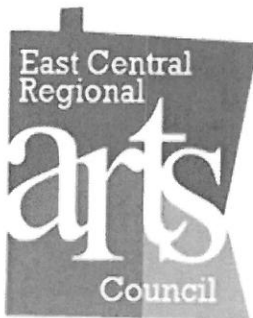
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**This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the general fund and the arts and cultural heritage fund.**

**This document can be made available in the following alternative formats:  
Braille, large print, and as an audio.  
To accommodate your special request ECRAC  
will need at least 15 working days.**



## GRANTS FUNDED - FY 2016

Grants funded by the East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) during FY 2016  
(July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

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### ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Organization Grant Program-

\$5,000 to \$15,000 grants are available to organizations (501c3 nonprofits, units of government, schools, or groups that use a fiscal agent). Proceeds from the fund may be spent on arts and arts access, arts education, and arts and cultural heritage, and may be used in creating, producing, or presenting high quality arts projects.

**Deadlines are November 1, February 1, and April 1.**

City of Cambridge City Park Music Concert Series  
\$7,929

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the City of Cambridge will host an open to the public summer music concert series to be held outdoors at the Cambridge City Park amphitheater/shelter. The series includes seven bands: Spirit River Scandiband, on July 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; The Teddy Bear Band on August 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; My Famous Friends Band on August 4 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Drivin' Wheels Band on August 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Kenny Krona and Rick Stener on August 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; White Sidewalls Band on August 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Ring of Kerry Band on September 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All concerts will be provided free of charge to the public.

Chisago Lakes Community Education Artists Inspiring Children  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Chisago Lakes Community Education will contract with 18 local artists to teach their artistic skills and share their artistic passions with the youth of southern Chisago County during after school classes and two parent-child classes in the evening. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of acting and theatre arts, pottery, piano instruction, pencil drawing, painting, mural making, knitting, wood building, clogging, Hula, photography, cinematography, magic performing arts, and singing. The classes will take place Monday through Friday afternoons between 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. from September through December. These classes are open to all students who live in the Chisago Lakes Area school district.

Chisago Lakes Community Education It's Never Too Late to Become an Artist  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, art classes taught by local artists will be offered to the adult residents of southern Chisago County through Chisago Lakes Community Education during the fall, winter, and spring of 2016 and 2017. Artists will share their artistic passions with adults allowing them to experience art first hand alongside an artist. There will be a project-ending art show in April of 2017 where the work of the adult students will be displayed alongside that of the artist instructors.

Chisago Lakes Community Education Afternoons With Artists  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Chisago Lakes Community Education will contract with local artists to teach their artistic skills to the youth of southern Chisago County during after school classes and evening advanced classes. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of acting and theatre arts, pottery, piano instruction, pencil drawing, painting, mural making, knitting, furniture building, clogging, Hula, photography, cinematography, magic performing arts and singing. An additional component will be advanced instruction in drawing, pottery, painting, and photography. The project will culminate in an art show to be held during the month of December, 2016.

Franconia Sculpture Park 2016 Music at Franconia Concert Series and Guided Tours  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will provide musical performances and guided tours of Franconia's sculpture exhibition. The series includes 3 concert events: Country and Swing (6/25/16), Latin Dance (7/16/16), and American Roots & Rock (8/27/16). All events will be free and open to the public from 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. beginning with an opening act followed by the headliner performers. Guided exhibition tours will be offered between music sets.

Franconia Sculpture Park 2016 Community Collaboration Hot Metal Pour Program  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will provide five art-making workshops on July 30, July 31, August 3, August 4, and August 6, 2016, and will present a full-day live metal pour demonstration event on Saturday, August 6, 2016. The project will provide opportunities to create three-dimensional artwork, to hand-carve a sand mold that will be permanently cast in iron, and to participate in the multi-step process of iron sculpture-making.

Franconia Sculpture Park 2016 Art and Artists Celebration  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will provide an arts festival and music event on September 17, 2016, as the official public opening reception to celebrate over 40 new sculptures created by Franconia's 2016 Fellowship, Iron, and Intern Artists, and will celebrate the anniversary of Franconia's 20th year. Activities throughout the day



will include: guided exhibition tours, art-making stations including “Make Your Own Art”, family art activities; concerts; and theatre performances.

Isanti County Parks Department Anderson Park Sculptures  
\$8,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, The Isanti County Parks Department will contract with artist Keith Raivo for the design, construction, and installation of two life-size Sandhill Crane sculptures to be installed in the native prairie vegetation near the entrance to Irving & John Anderson County Park. The sculptures will be three-dimensional with lifelike shapes and will be installed onto concrete frost footings with stone facing.

Isle School District #473 Arts Around Mille Lacs  
\$7,987

Grant Project Summary: During the Arts Around Mille Lacs project, Isle Community Education will provide workshop opportunities for learning, observing, and appreciating the arts through the late summer, fall, and early winter of 2016. The activities will be offered free of charge to a broad array of ages and skill levels, and include: Youth Pottery Camp (grades 6 and up); Water Color Painting (grade 9 through adult); iPhone Photography; Introduction to Photoshop Elements (ages 15 through adult); Stained Glass (adults only); Block Cutting and Printing (ages 10 through adult); Navajo Rug Making (for Elementary Students). The artwork produced will be displayed to the public in several community locations, including: the Onamia Depot Library, the Mille Lacs Lake Community Library in Isle, the Isle Recreation and Education Center, the Rolf Olsen Community Center in Onamia, and Onamia Elementary School. Public activities will also include Open Studio Days during the Youth Pottery Camps in both Isle and Onamia.

City of Lindstrom Marlene Smith Statue  
\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: This project involves the creation and placement of a permanent full-size bronze statue of Marlene Smith to be placed in the east plaza garden area located between Highway 8 and North First Avenue in Lindstrom. This project phase will take place in the artist’s studio during the winter months with preliminary design and construction of the sculpture in steel and clay. Local art students, school classes, city residents, interested people, other artists, etc., will be invited to an open house to tour the studio and learn about the process and project. An grand opening will be held when the sculpture is completed and installed.

Milaca Fine Arts Council 2016 Music in the Park  
\$8,410

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the Milaca Fine Arts Council will present a series of community concerts on June 23, June 30, July 14 and July 21, 2016. These Thursday evening concerts will allow the community to experience a variety of music genres in Milaca's Recreation Park, making use of the newly renovated historic band shell. The concerts will be presented free of charge, providing local access to those who do not otherwise have opportunities to participate in arts and music performances.

City of Mora Music in the Park

\$15,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, The City of Mora will provide the public with a wide variety of family friendly musical experiences. The 2016 Music in the Park concert series will include 12 Thursday evening concerts scheduled from June 2 through August 25. These concerts will each last 1-2 hours and will be held at Mora's Library Park. All concerts are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be free and open to the public.

Pine City Arts Council Art in Concert

\$13,900

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Pine City Arts Council will provide three open to the public performances at the Pine City High School Auditorium : Barley Jacks - October 1, 2017; Stages Theatre Velveteen Rabbit - March 31-April 1, 2017; and Copper Street Brass - April 21, 2017. Copper Street Brass will also provide an arts learning experience to the Pine City High School Band students, exploring and analyzing how a variety of genres and styles contribute to the creation of music.

Pine County Agricultural Society Pine County Fair Performances

\$9,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, The Pine County Agricultural Society will provide music performances at the Pine County fair on August 3, 2016 through August 7, 2016. Various local and regional entertainers will perform during the 5 days of the fair. The opening show begins Wednesday evening at 5 pm, with Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday entertainment times of noon, 2:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday evening shows are scheduled from 8 pm to midnight. The types of musical entertainment include country, old time, gospel, and rock n roll.

Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community ADA Improvements to Halberg Center for the Arts

\$13,635

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community (WACAC) will improve the accessibility of its facility. An ADA Transition Plan has been developed that identifies improvements necessary to make the venue and programming accessible to all persons and compliant with ADA requirements. The project will provide access to the main floor gallery of the Halberg Center for the Arts for persons with mobility impairments and will culminate in an open to the public event.

Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community In. Art Show

\$8,572

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community (WACAC) will present its first juried art show entitled In. Art Show at the Hallberg Center for the Arts in Wyoming, Minnesota, from August 18th through September 17th. The opening reception and awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will remain up through the end of the month. The show is open to visual artists ages 18 and over living in Region 7E and the surrounding area.

## ECRAC Small/Arts Project Grant Program

Grants from \$500 to \$5,000 will be made to organizations (501(c)3 nonprofits, units of government, schools, or groups that use a fiscal agent). A 1:1 match is required. 10% must be an assured cash match. These grants are for art projects of any discipline.

**Deadlines are November 1, February 1, and April 1**

East Central Minnesota Pride      East Central MN Pride in the Park 2016  
\$4,710

Grant Project Summary: Marking the twelfth annual regional celebration in Pine City, East Central Minnesota Pride will provide live music and performances from three different musical groups. This picnic-type event will be held in downtown Pine City's Robinson Park on June 5, 2016, from noon to 5:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Family Pathways      Arts for Respite  
\$4,875

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Family Pathways will provide artistic experiences for older adults with dementia via Family Pathways In-Home Respite program and Adult Day Break social respite programs in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec and Pine Counties. Regional artists will guide step-by-step instructions in group settings allowing each participant to accomplish a completed art project with the help of a volunteer. Individual Art Kits will be provided to help older adults receive stimulation in their own homes during visits from Family Pathways volunteers.

Franconia Sculpture Park      2016 Guided Exhibition Tour Program  
\$5,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will provide its 2016 Guided Exhibition Tour program, which will be conducted from May through October 2016. This program provides the public with guided tours and hands-on arts activities led by professional artists and staff in an exploration of the over 100 sculptures on exhibition at Franconia Sculpture Park. Through this program, participants will develop a deeper understanding of three-dimensional design elements and principles via guided exhibition tours and art-making activities taught by professional teaching artists and staff.

Franconia Sculpture Park      Kids Make Sculpture  
\$5,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will provide a hands-on arts learning and art-making program for youth ages 4-18. Participants will build larger-than-life sculptures under the direct guidance of Franconia artists during Saturday afternoon workshops

to be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on May 28, June 11, July 23, August 20, and September 10, 2016.

Franconia Sculpture Park 2017 Valentine's Day Hot Metal Pour Program  
\$5,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, Franconia Sculpture Park will provide a winter art-making program consisting of 8 art-making workshops held on January 28 and 29, and February 4 and 5, 2017 during which community members of all ages will have the opportunity to create individually-designed relief sculptures. A live metal pour event will be held on February 11, 2017 where attendees will observe a live metal pour and learn about the process of metal casting.

City of Lindstrom Lindstrom Bakery Mural  
\$4,100

Grant Project Summary: This project involves the creation of an 80' long by 10' high mural of a historic 1880 railroad trestle painted on the west exterior wall of the Lindstrom Bakery building.

City of Lindstrom Karl Oskar Days Glass Blowing Demonstration  
\$4,132

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the City of Lindstrom will offer live demonstrations of the art of glass blowing. Local glass blower Alan Honn will conduct 10 hourly glass blowing demonstrations during two days of the 2016 Karl Oskar Days Celebration - Saturday, July 9th, from noon until 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 10th, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Pine City Heritage Players 2016 Production of "Noises Off"  
\$3,350

Grant Project Summary: During this project, The Pine City Heritage Players will produce a play production entitled Noises Off. Performance dates include: April 2, at 7:00 p.m.; April 3, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; April 7, at 7:00 p.m.; April 8, at 7:00 p.m.; and April 9, at 7:00 p.m. All performances will be held at the Pine City High School Auditorium.

Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community Kids Can Be Artists, Too 2016  
\$5,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the Wyoming Area Creative Arts Community will provide the 4th annual "Kids Can Be Artists, Too!" event to be held on September 9-11, 2016 in Wyoming, MN. Activities will include a children-of-all-ages painting experience with acrylic paints on canvas with artist volunteers who act as mentors. This free and open to the public event also includes an exhibition opportunity at the Hallberg Center for the Arts in Wyoming, from September 22nd through October 15th.

## ECRAC Art In Our Schools Grant Program

Grants up to \$3,000 are available to schools. This program supplements the existing school arts curriculum with such projects as artistic residencies, arts related field trips, and special arts events or projects. Grants must be arts focused and may be used to support all students and/or student groups such as drama club, art classes, entire grades, or gifted and talented students. There must be an open to the public event.

**Deadlines are November 1, February 1, and April 1.**

East Central Schools ISD# 2580 Storytelling and Music of the Kettle River  
\$3,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, East Central Schools will provide educational sessions about the folklore of Minnesota utilizing artistic storytelling and music in classroom settings. Over the course of four days, musician and storyteller Fred Keller will hold 50-minute sessions with 6 groups of students each day during the week of May 16-20, 2016. A free community concert will be performed by The Skally Line duet (Keller with Tom Cornish) on May 18, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The students and concertgoers will be introduced to regional folklore storytelling and how music can be a part of storytelling.

Hinckley-Finlayson Schools ISD# 2165 Spring Play 2016 – Community Theatre Expansion  
\$2,500

Grant Project Summary: During this project, students of Hinckley-Finlayson Schools will have the chance to work alongside fellow actors from the community to create a production of the school's 2016 Spring Play. Students will be given time before and after practices to corroborate and learn from community members, sharing their ideas and learning new techniques. The project includes expansion of the audition pool to include community members, as well as increasing production values for the Spring Play to create a higher quality experience for community members and students.

Princeton Schools ISD# 477 Jewelry and Glass Fusion  
\$2,500

Grant Project Summary: This project will allow students to work with a local artist, learning the elements and principles of design and the tools, techniques and procedures of glass fusion, by creating individualized glass pendants. There will be an open to the public demonstration.

## ECRAC Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grant Program for Individual Artists

This program provides grants up to \$2,500 to individual artists. Funds may be spent on arts and arts access, arts education and arts and cultural heritage, and may be used in creating, producing, or presenting high quality arts projects. All projects are required to have an open to the public event as part of their project.

**Deadlines are November 1, February 1, and April 1.**

Erica Belkholm      First Solo Show  
\$2,500

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will exhibit up to fifteen pieces of artwork in her first solo show to be held at the Pine Center for the Arts in Pine City, MN. The date of the opening reception is Friday, September 9th, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The show will be up during regular exhibition hours from September 9th to October 2016.

Kelli Tubbs      Fundamentals of Double Drumming & Ragtime Drumming  
\$2,500

Grant Project Summary: This project involves the artist learning the fundamentals of two music styles in the timeline of American popular music (from the 1860s to the 1910s) and the refurbishing of antique musical instruments. With the assistance of a videographer from the region, video vignettes will tell the story of the percussion instruments and accessories used during the time periods. The videos will be uploaded to her YouTube channel. The project will culminate in an educational/informational discussion about the music and drums of this time period, including a double drumming demonstration.

Kelli Tubbs      Brushes and Cymbals Techniques for Traditional Jazz Drumming  
\$2,500

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will receive instruction in proper choke cymbal, China cymbal, foot-operated cymbals, and brushes techniques specific to traditional jazz drumming (circa 1915 through 1930). The project also includes the purchase of one vintage 12" cymbal (circa 1930s); the creation of video vignettes that will describe hoop-mounted cymbals and foot-operated cymbals. It will also include a public event that includes a discussion of the art form and a performance by regional musicians in the traditional jazz style.

## ECRAC/McKnight Individual Artist Grant Program

Grants up to \$1,000 are available to individual artists. This program provides financial support to artists committed to personal artistic growth. Applications are encouraged from artists in all disciplines. The program funds specific art projects designed to enhance the artistic skills, artwork and/or the artistic career of the individual artist.

**Deadlines are November 1, February 1, and April 1.**

Carole Bersin - Figurative Intensive

\$1,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will attend life drawing sessions at two different locations, the Pineapple Arts Center in Duluth and the Minnesota Figure Study Collaborative in Minneapolis, attending a minimum of 30 sessions at the Pineapple Arts Center and 10 sessions at the Minnesota Figure Collaborative. The artist's goal is to deepen her artistic skills by drawing and painting the human figure in a more intentional way.

Gail Gates -Towards Impressionistic Art

\$1,000

Grant Project Summary: This project will allow the artist to receive lessons from a photography mentor on how to capture iPad images and manipulate them through digital applications, and then produce a series of photographs, with the goal of selecting one for entry into East Central Regional Arts Council's IMAGE Art Show. The artist wishes to strengthen her photographic skills in representative and impressionistic art.

Katherine Hovland -Natural Plant Dyes Course at North House Folk School

\$960

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will attend a Natural Plant Dyes workshop in Grand Marais. During the workshop, the artist will learn preservation methods for the plant dyes and will practice dyeing fabrics using the Japanese Shibori method. The artist will also learn additional methods of manipulating color with the use of natural dyes on natural fibers, enhancing her current investigation into color effects on each other and on various natural fibers.

Kathy Marcy - Musikgarten

\$1,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will attend a workshop in Evanston, IL at the Music Institute of Chicago. This workshop will increase her training in working with parents and children, and will allow her to gain tools in sharing with parents the importance of early education in music.

Richard Marcy - Watercolor Project

\$950

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will purchase high quality brushes, paint, and paper to help further develop his skills as a watercolor painter, and will produce 4 show-quality watercolor pieces. The artist will be working on still life and plein air landscapes with a focus on learning to control the watercolor medium.

Barbara Orstad - Natural Plant Dyes Course at North House Folk School

\$960

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will attend a Natural Plant Dyes workshop in Grand Marais, MN. During the workshop, she will learn how to gather plant materials from the wild, how to prepare dye baths to extract the color, and will learn different mordants which set the color to prevent fading and determine the final color. These processes will be practiced on 3 different natural fibers: wool, silk and cotton, including the "shibori" style of dying silk.

Jacque Sabolik - Landscapes from the Kansas Plains to the Woods and Lakes of Minnesota

\$902

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will paint 3 large (18 x 24) landscapes highlighting the diversity of the Kansas plains and the woods and lakes of Minnesota using personal photographs as reference. The project will allow the artist to go beyond her current specialty of painting animals and people, to explore painting landscapes in a mixed media of watercolor and acrylic.

Joy Tate - Boundary Waters Canoe Area Study/Painting Series

\$1,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will travel to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) during August 2016 to spend five days photographing a variety of sunrises, sunsets and other beauty found within the BWCA. From these photographs, the artist will then create 10 oil paintings on canvas with sizes ranging from 20 x 24 - 24 x 48.

James Williams - Astrophotography

\$1,000

Grant Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to allow the purchase of a new camera kit so the artist can continue to grow as an astrophotographic artist. Utilizing an already-owned high quality telescope and mount, the artist will then be able to produce images worthy of enlargement and display at art shows and other events. A minimum of six new photographic images for use in a photo club and other events will be created during the project.

Stanton Zobel - Sculpture from Tree Stumps

\$1,000

Grant Project Summary: During this project, the artist will complete two sculptures using native tree stumps as raw materials, incorporating rock as a material into one of the pieces. The project includes purchasing supplies and equipment needed for the development of the sculptural work.



## ECRAC Fellowship Program

Three \$7,000 Fellowships are available annually. The Fellowship program is designed to recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding professional artists. These Fellowships will allow artists to set aside time to work, purchase supplies and materials, undertake advanced study (not related to a degree) or to pursue other career goals.

**This program has a March 1 annual deadline and is supported by  
The McKnight Foundation.**

MaryAnn Cleary    Minimal Stroke Painting  
\$7,000

Grant Project Summary: The purpose of this Fellowship is to allow the artist to: complete ten paintings in a larger format from her current 8x8 inch studies; continue her previous studies with mentor Mary Pettis; and document her paintings and studies. She will host discussion events at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley, MN and at Cambridge Center for the Arts, and will submit exhibition proposals to several other community art centers.

Natalia Peterson    Borderland  
\$7,000

Grant Project Summary: During this Fellowship, the artist will create the script and music for an historical musical and theatrical stage production entitled, Borderland, and will research documents, photos and video footage to be projected on the stage during the production. Dramaturg Wendy Weckwerth of Playwrights Center in Minneapolis will provide professional analysis of the script. After revisions and final editing, both the script and musical compositions will be reviewed by and discussed with Theatrical Producer Jamie Cesa.

Dee Ann Sibley    The Studio Process From Shoot to Print  
\$7,000

Grant Project Summary: During this Fellowship, the artist will purchase a high-quality fine art professional printer, and will learn the fine art printing process while working in an apprenticeship with professional photographer, Robert Osborn. The artist's goal is to increase her understanding of specific elements dealing with camera operation, approaching subjects, studio basics, post processing specifics, and the black and white printing process details.

## ECRAC K-12 Student Scholarship Program

Scholarships up to \$500 are available. Scholarship funding is available for specific art learning projects or programs for students currently in Grades K-12.

**This program has a March 1 annual deadline.**

Kelsi S. - Appalachian Clogging and Folk Art

\$500

During this project, the student will attend Appalachian Clogging and Folk Art classes in Taylors Falls, MN to improve her dancing skills. Classes will be provided twice weekly. Private lessons will be attended twice a month.

Keri S. - Appalachian Clogging and Folk Art

\$500

During this project, the student will attend Appalachian Clogging and Folk Art classes in Taylors Falls, MN to improve her dancing skills. Classes will be provided twice weekly. Private lessons will be attended twice a month.

Angelo V. - Bemidji International Music Camp

\$468

During this project, the student will attend the Bemidji International Music Camp from July 17 to July 23, 2016, to improve his musical skills as a pianist.